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www.mindentimes.ca Thursday, April 21, 2016

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Devil's in details for church application

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Minden Hills councillors seem unsure how to handle a rezoning application from the Allsaw Pentecostal Church.

Council discussed the application at an April 14 committee-of-the-whole meeting.

The administration of the church is seeking a rezoning of the property for the construction of an addition to the building, as well as an "accessory use of up to nine trailers," according to the planning report.

It's the latter issue that is causing some confusion for council and frustration for a neighbour.

The church is located on a 2.5-acre property along County Road 21. The property currently has rural zoning, making the church itself a legal non-conforming use. Technically the property should have a different zoning and it's the recommendation of Minden Hills planner Ian Clendening that the property be rezoned as community facilities exception four (CF-4).

It was the recent application for a building permit for an addition to the church that brought the various planning issues on the property to light.

For years, a number of trailers have been located on the property. According to Clendening, the trailers are used as a sort of "staging" area by church groups, whose members stay on the property for short periods.

see PLANNER page 2



Wine and words

Author Irene Davidson Fisher of Minden reads from her book *Robbie Raccoon and the Big Black Blob* at the 12th annual Evening of Wine, Words, Music and Art on Friday, April 15 at the Dorset Recreation Centre. See more on page 4.

DARREN LUM Staff

Province suspends Trillium capital grants

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott is criticizing the Ontario government for pressing pause on capital grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The government will redirect money from the Trillium Foundation's \$25 million capital grants program for 2016 to the Ontario 150 program, a grant program centred on Canada's sesquicentennial anniversary in 2017.

"They should not be raiding the Trillium funding because our community groups rely on the Trillium Foundation," Scott said, adding that funding from the provincial organization helps with projects at buildings such as curling clubs and Legions throughout the riding. "It is not fair to the volunteers."

In Minden, a \$150,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation helped pay for part of the Minden Community Food Centre on Newcastle Street.

Scott noted that part of the Trillium funding process is grant review applications and said the move is unfair to volunteers who have spent time completing applications for capital funding.

Scott said if the government wanted to provide grants for sesquicentennial celebrations, "they should have made an allotment for it."

She said it was announced just two weeks before the deadline there would be a suspension of the capital grant program.

It is not clear, Scott said, whether any capital grant applications that were being worked on may qualify under the Ontario 150 grant program.

The paper did not hear back from a local Trillium Foundation representative before press time.

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Planner says ‘poor advice’ given to applicant

from page 1

ods of time during the summer before moving on to other communities.

The lack of a sewer or water system for the trailers was an issue for a neighbour who told council during a public meeting last Thursday that she opposes the application.

“My main concern is the sewage and grey water,” the woman told councillors. “There are trailer parks around the area for public use.”

She said she could hear noise from meetings and ceremonies from her house and also noted the recommendation from Clendening was that fees for the application be waived, which she found unfair.

Adding to the complication of the situation is what Clendening called “poor advice” from a previous township planning consultant.

In late 2010, the church’s administration had sought a rezoning permit for the property but at the time was advised by a township planning consultant to apply for a temporary use permit instead. That temporary use permit – which specified that camping in the trailers was not to exceed four consecutive days at a time – was granted in 2011, but expired

in 2014.

“So actually, they have not abided by the temporary use bylaw,” Councillor Jean Neville said. “They are not policing themselves or doing what they said they’d do.”

Clendening, pointing again to what he believes was poor advice from the township, said he believed the church administration was under the impression that everything was in order when it came to the use of the property.

“I think this is happening because of ignorance of the law,” he told councillors, adding church officials seemed to be under the impression that after the temporary use permit was granted in 2011, the township was going to take action, eventually folding the use into a bylaw.

As for the fee waiver, Clendening said the church had paid some \$2,500 for the temporary use permit process in 2011.

Regarding the sewage concerns, Clendening’s report reads that short-term use of the trailers would not require sewer and water servicing or studies on the use.

“Through discussion with the applicant, the objective of the application is to allow for the short-term accommodation of church groups as they prepare to embark upon a camping

expedition elsewhere,” the report reads. “In the event that the use of the trailers were limited to such an extent that they did not require full servicing, such studies would not be required as the use would be limited to, essentially, short-term parking together with the overnight accommodation and not requiring to be connected to individual on-site water and sewage services.”

Councillors weren’t so sure.

“I’m finding this a very convoluted application and I have a lot of concerns with it,” said Councillor Jeanne Anthon.

“I think this is a huge can of worms every which way,” said Councillor Pam Sayne.

Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch, who chaired last week’s meeting, said since it was the church’s hope to use the trailers again this summer, council would need to make a decision in the near future.

Council asked for more information on the use of the trailers and is scheduled to make a decision on the matter at an April 28 meeting.

CAYGEON DENTURE CLINIC



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Caygeon Denture Clinic is now under the NEW OWNERSHIP of Denturist Fernando Paiz. Fernando, a George Brown College Graduate, brings with him 18 years experience in the dental field, including 5 years on the Faculty of Denturism at Trillium College.

The denture clinic will carry on its practice as usual with Donna as office manager and Cindy continuing as lab technician.

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Times takes three CCNA awards

The *Minden Times* took two awards at the annual Canadian Community Newspaper Association awards competition.

The photo *Pan Am pride* by Darren Lum placed second in the Best Sports Photo category for papers with a circulation up to 3,999.

For Cluck’s Sake by Chad Ingram took third place for Best Local Editorial for papers with a circulation up to 3,999.

The *Minden Times* also received the CCNA’s Blue Ribbon.

Sister publication the *Haliburton County Echo* won two awards, placing second for General Excellence in its circulation class. *Beech bark disease rolling through county* by Jenn Watt also received a second place finish for Best Feature Story for papers with a circulation of up to 3,999.

RIDE check leads to drug charges

On April 13, shortly after 7:30 p.m., members from the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment were conducting a RIDE check on County Road 503 at Milburn Road in the Township of Minden Hills.

A grey pick-up truck approached the RIDE check. Upon speaking to the four occupants of the vehicle, officers observed open alcohol inside the vehicle. Through further investigation officers located and seized a small quantity of unmarked cigarettes and suspected marijuana.

A 54-year-old man from Dysart et al has been charged with possessing unmarked cigarettes and possessing more than 30 grams of marijuana.

Male passengers, a 21-year-old, a 20-year-old, and female passenger, a 58-year-old all of Dysart et al, have been charged with consuming liquor in a place other than a residence, private place or licensed premises and possessing more than 30 grams of marijuana.

All four accused will appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on June 1.

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than 50 years.

www.mindentimes.ca

County to appeal to ombudsman on OPP billing

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County will lodge a complaint with the Ontario ombudsman regarding the OPP billing formula, asking the ombudsman's office to review the billing framework that came into effect last year.

"I'm suggesting that we reach out to the ombudsman," said Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey during a special county council meeting April 13. "That's their responsibility, to capture complaints about Ontario government services and police is an Ontario government service. I think there's a case to be made."

Municipalities first found out about a new OPP billing system in late 2013, one that would redistribute total OPP costs on a per household basis throughout the province. Because seasonal residences qualify as households, cottage communities such as the county's four lower-tier townships are watching their OPP bills skyrocket during a five-year phase-in period that began in 2015.

The county's collective policing bill will double from about \$3 million to more than \$6 million during the phase-in.

County council rallied against the formula in 2014, meeting with ministers to explain what they believed were the formula's many flaws. It weights commercial properties evenly with residential ones, for example.

"If a bar in one of the cities is one household and we've got one cottager that's up here for 60 days of the year and they're paying at the same rate . . . that's unfair," Fearrey said Wednesday. "It's unfair that large commercial facilities are one unit."

Fearrey also said if the province would provide the statistics, he's confident the county could demonstrate that seasonal residents generate very few calls for service.

County chief administrative officer Mike Rutter said he thought there was merit in making a submission to the ombudsman's office and that he believes the formula has flaws.

Rutter said that Frontenac Islands Township is being billed for the OPP to look after windmills.

"A wind turbine is being taxed as if it was a household," he said. "There are a lot of things systematically wrong with the billing formula and I think a lot of municipalities would support that."

Councillors discussed other options, such as the creation of a local municipal police force or contracting the services of a contiguous municipal force, as permitted under the Police Services Act.

The county could approach the City of Kawartha Lakes, for example, about using its force.

However, since the formula was announced, a number of municipalities have conducted feasibility studies on creating their own forces or partnering with contiguous ones and Rutter told council in many cases, those studies have shown little if any cost savings.

"Even in cases where they have partnered with other townships, the cost per household is almost the same as the OPP," Rutter said.

While the thought is often that municipal forces give municipalities control over wages – which constitute approximately 85 per cent of OPP costs – "we live in a world of interest arbitration," Rutter said, explaining that before long, municipal officers would want similar pay cheques to other

police officers in the province.

"All that arbitrators look at is what other people in similar positions are getting paid," Rutter continued, adding they don't consider factors such as call volumes or a municipality's ability to pay, as the county had recently seen with its paramedics.

Algonquin Highlands Reeve and County Warden Carol Moffatt agreed that if creating a municipal force were a relatively easy feat, there would be more of them in the province and fewer areas covered by the OPP.

"Starting from scratch is a massive, massive undertaking," Moffatt said.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen thought the county should stick to lobbying the province, saying that if the proverbial horse was out of the barn when it came to the billing formula, the horse was still in the corral.

Council voted to defer any decision on the creation of a local force and along with its submission to the ombudsman's office, to continue to lobby the province for changes to the formula.

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INFORMATION PAGE

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MEETINGS & EVENTS

Public are welcome to attend

Apr 28
9:00 am, Regular Council meeting, Minden Council Chambers

May 12
9:00 am, COTW meeting, Minden Council Chambers

ARTISAN MARKET IN MINDEN HILLS

Held downtown Minden, behind the Municipal administration office, on Saturday mornings from 10-2pm. Season goes from June 18th to September 3rd.
Cost for 10 x 10 space is only \$10 per market day.
We are asking for hand crafted items (by the vendor) only.

Contact Elisha at 705-286-2298 or eweiss@mindenhills.ca for more information.

NATURE'S PLACE

Earth Day
April 23
Community Pitch in Garbage Pickup from 10am to 6pm.
Bags available at Nature's Place and Library.
Full bags can be dropped at Cultural Centre parking lot. Blue Dot Campaign Update EcoFilms offered through the day

Dan Busby Bird Photography Show

May 1—May 30
As a professional Ornithologist and wildlife biologist, Dan's career focused on wildlife conservation, species at risk and environmental assessment. Photography always played an important role in how he sees wildlife; it promotes a deeper understanding of their unique, and often unseen, behaviours, beauty and, sometimes, their incredible resilience. Through his photography Dan aims to convey what one might otherwise not see and help to forge a respect that may otherwise be absent. Dan's photographs are made using the latest in professional digital photographic and printing equipment. Each image, whether a traditional paper-under-glass, a canvas stretch or a metal print is individually produced and is made using the finest archival materials.

REQUESTS FOR TENDER

For the Roads Department:
Tender #RDS 16-002 – Truck & Equipment Rental. Submission deadline is Wed Apr 27, 2016 by 12:00 noon.

For the Environmental & Property Operations Department:
Tender #EPO 16-002 – Sewer Flushing Services. Submission deadline is Mon Apr 25, 2016 by 12:00 noon.

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/tenders/ for more information on this and other tenders.

NOTICE – PROPOSED PROCEDURAL BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Take Notice that the Council of the Township of Minden Hills, at its April 28th 2016 Council Meeting will consider an amendment to Section 10 of Procedural By-law #15-01.

The amendment will include a provision to proceed into Closed Session related to an ongoing investigation respecting the municipality, by the Ombudsman.

The meeting will commence at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Newhook, Clerk at 705-286-1260 ext 205 or email: dnewhook@mindenhills.ca

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- Youth Recreation Coaches and those individuals who volunteer
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- your commitment to, and enthusiasm for our community is greatly appreciated.

Minden Hills wouldn't be the wonderful place it is without all of you!

“
There are a lot of things systematically wrong with the formula and I think a lot of municipalities would support that.

— COUNTY CAO MIKE RUTTER

”

Flooding likely to cost taxpayers on road repair

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The following are brief reports of items discussed during an April 14 Minden Hills committee-of-the-whole meeting.

Chief administrative officer Lorrie Blanchard told councilors that it's likely the township's roads director would be requesting some cash for road repairs stemming from flooding in the township.

"I'll suspect he'll need some money to do some of the work," Blanchard said.

Several roads in the township have been closed during the past couple of weeks due to flooding in the Gull River watershed. In the village, Anson, McKnight, Orde and Invergordon have been barricaded to all but local traffic.

At press time, the Gull River watershed was still under a flood warning initially issued by the MNRF March 31.

Blanchard said a report from the roads department would be presented to council once flood waters recede and the extent of damage is clear.

The CAO said the township was unlikely to qualify for any provincial funding for the work since no state of emergency had been declared.

Arena renovations get underway

The township will get to work on renovations to the Minden Hills Community Centre and the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena that will include the replacement of the furnace with a propane unit; new flooring in the community hall, lobby and dressing rooms; upgrading the kitchen cabinets, appliances, doorways, windows and lighting; installing a digital message board on the outside of the arena as well as a digital display in the lobby; and improved interior design elements in the hall and dressing room washrooms.

More than \$73,000 of the \$245,000 project is coming from a Canada 150 grant through FedDev Ontario's Community Infrastructure Program.

Community services director Mark Coleman told councillors the digital message board on the building's exterior should help increase the township's advertising revenues.

Interactive panels

The township will purchase wall panels for interpretive centre Nature's Place at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The panels, which will include interactive, digital displays, will be purchased from County Sign & Display, which had the lower of two bid prices at approximately \$7,600 including tax.

Bridge replacement

Minden Hills will purchase a steel bridge from Lessard Steel for installation on Francis Road. The project will cost \$190,000 for the purchase, delivery and installation of the bridge and a report from road director Travis Wilson recommended single-sourcing the installation portion of the project to Lessard Welding to expedite the process. While a week has been allotted for construction, Wilson told councillors the bridge would likely only need to be closed for a day. While the \$190,000 does not include engineering costs, with a budgeted expense of \$220,000, the project is anticipated to come in under budget.



Eric Thompson of Moon Shadows Estate Winery hands a wine sample to stone carver Elise Muller of Dorset showcased her work at the 12th annual Evening of Wine, Words, Music & Art on Friday, April 15 at the Dorset Recreation Centre. MCed by Mary Rashleigh, this annual cultural event included live music and poetry and essay readings./DARREN LUM Staff



Sweeter than wine

A large crowd attended the 12th annual Evening of Wine, Words, Music & Art, which featured performers such as John Deehan on saxophone and Zoe Chilco on Friday, April 15 at the Dorset Recreation Centre.

Hawks are fledgling, but fearless

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

There is a positive vibe with the Red Hawks junior girls' soccer team this season.

Head coach Amy Klose said in an email her team comprises of predominantly young players, but are "intelligent, committed and fearless."

With 12 rookies and only three returning players, the team is rebuilding.

It will be gaining valuable game experience with two pre-season mini tournaments the last week of April just before the high school league games start in May. See schedule in sidebar.

Since the beginning of the month, the Hawks have been preparing with three morning practices a week, she said. "We've been working on ball control, fitness and core strengthening in our indoor practices. We now have three days on the field in order to get ready for next week. On the field we will work on positional play, rules, and moving the ball through the rough conditions," she wrote in an email.

This team is putting in the necessary work to make up for their inexperience and is supported well.

"So far they have risen to the physical challenges of our trainer Janice Scheffee. Coach Doug Sullivan has worked to improve their ball skills and they show excellent improvement," she said. "I'm looking forward to watching their development."

Junior Red Hawks girls soccer schedule:

*League games start at 4:30

April 25

LCVI tournament
Games 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

April 27

LCVI tournament
Games 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

May 4

at I.E. Weldon
Start 4:30

May 9

Hosting LCVI

May 11

Hosting FFSS

May 16

Kawartha quarter-finals

May 18

Kawartha semi-finals

May 20

Kawartha finals

May 25

COSSA (Central Ontario Secondary School Athletics)

Scott calls colleague's comments 'totally inappropriate'

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott says comments made by one of her Progressive Conservative caucus colleagues at a fundraising event in his riding were "totally inappropriate."

Media reports surfaced earlier this month that during a "men's night" fundraiser for a fair in his riding, Carleton-Mississippi Mills MPP Jack MacLaren took the stage, calling up his federal counterpart, Liberal MP Karen McCrimmon. Once she joined him on stage, MacLaren then proceeded to tell a "joke" involving McCrimmon, her husband and oral sex.

According to a report in a local newspaper, the "joke" was met with silence from the crowd of 350.

"He should not have made those comments," Scott told the *Times*. "It was totally inappropriate what he did." Scott is the PC party's critic on women's issues and has spent the past 18 months working on legislation to combat sexual harassment, sexual abuse and human trafficking.

Some have called for MacLaren's ouster from the PC party. Does Scott think he should have been booted from caucus?

"No," she said. "He did apologize . . . and has been sent for sensitivity training. He'll be taking a break from Queen's Park."

On April 18, a press release from the PCs stated that MacLaren had been relieved of his duties as party critic on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

"Further, MPP MacLaren will be taking time away from Queen's Park in order to focus on his constituency work and partake in sensitivity training," party leader Patrick Brown said in the release.

"I have been clear that there is no room for anything less than respect and tolerance in the Ontario PC party and caucus, in our legislature, and society. Reassignment of MPP MacLaren's roles will remain in effect until such time as I determine that appropriate corrective action has been taken."

Shortly after the controversy over the "joke," the *Ottawa Citizen* published a story on fake testimonials posted on MacLaren's website. The testimonials used phoney names and random stock photos of people taken from the Internet.

MacLaren subsequently apologized for the testimonials, which have been taken down.

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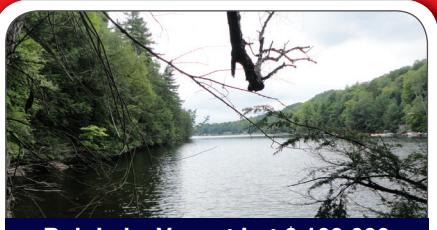
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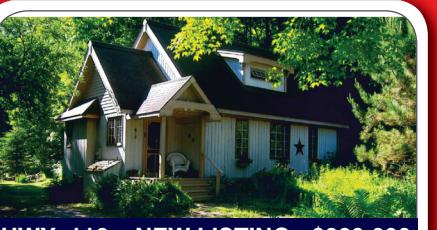

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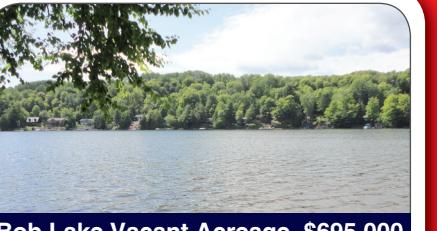

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The Times

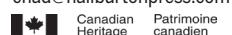
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Arresting costs

HALIBURTON COUNTY council has voted to appeal to the Ontario Ombudsman on the OPP billing model, and while that's something, the municipality should not rule out investigating the creation of its own police force.

As any regular reader of this newspaper will be aware, 2015 was the first year of a five-year phase-in of the new billing formula, which reallocates total OPP costs on a per household basis throughout Ontario.

One of the framework's biggest flaws is that it qualifies seasonal residences as households. That means the thousands of cottages in the county are billed at a rate equivalent to year-round homes.

As was noted at a county council meeting last week, in one municipality wind turbines are being billed as households, so . . . that brings a whole new level of headshaking to the equation.

When the phase-in is complete, the collective OPP bill of Haliburton County's four lower-tier townships will have doubled from about \$3 million to more than \$6 million, with no increase in service.

Not that we need an increase in service. In fact, asking how many police officers we really need, in this community and this country, is a question that desperately needs asking as policing costs continue to spiral out of control.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2013, there were just fewer than 70,000 police officers in Canada, with total policing costs amounting to more than \$13.6 billion.

Wages and benefits constitute between 80 and 90 per cent of all policing costs. It's difficult to know exact local figures since the OPP have been conveniently unable to tell county politicians how much the local detachment costs to operate on an annual basis, despite their repeated requests.

According to the Fraser Institute, the average number of police officers per 100,000 people in Canada rose by 8.2 per cent between 2001 and 2012, while the crime rate during the same period dropped by 26.3 per cent.



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter

Does a tiny community like Haliburton County, with a year-round population of 17,000, even require 30 police officers?

There are about 30 officers at the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment. An exact figure cannot be provided since the OPP have refused to provide this publication with an updated staff list.

The Police Services Act allows municipalities to form their own police forces or join with contiguous municipal forces.

While it's true that we live in a world of interest arbitration, where officers of new municipal forces would in short order want to be paid at a rate equivalent to other forces, surely there must be some officers out there, tired of working in communities with high crime rates, who would be willing to take a pay cut to work in cottage country.

A municipal force would also allow more local control over the number of officers.

In the wake of the new billing formula, a number of hard-hit communities have had feasibility studies done on the creation of their own forces or partnering with neighbouring municipal forces.

However, as was noted at last week's meeting, the finding of many of these studies has been that municipal forces would be nearly as expensive or just as expensive as the OPP.

However, many of those studies use the cost of new buildings, new equipment and new vehicles.

While there are adequacy standards that must be adhered to, the county has property it could use and owns buildings that could possibly be retrofitted to house police headquarters. What about finding gently used cruisers and equipment?

Getting the cost of policing under control is going to require some very creative thinking and some very serious political will.

It's lack of political will at the provincial level that has allowed the pay of OPP officers to rise to such an outlandish level in the first place.

Council has agreed to defer the idea of a local force for now, but at no time should the current county council or any of its successors rule out the concept.

NOTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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Signs of spring

CHAD INGRAM

Unsportsmanlike conduct

WE SPORTSMEN spend an awful lot of time trying to exude an image of true sportsmanship. This is in our literature. It is also why we tell our friends about how we routinely release fish, pass up on lesser animals, and don't shoot sitting ducks on the water.

Oh sure, there are some of us who actually do these things out of the goodness of their hearts. As for the rest of us, however, the fish slipped from our hands, we woke up to see a big buck running past and we did not shoot those ducks in the water because they were sitting among our expensive decoys.

That's often the truth of it – and, let me just add, there's nothing wrong with admitting that either.

What is wrong, and embarrassing, is to admit is that we often participate and enjoy unsportsmanlike conduct too.

A classic example of unsportsmanlike behaviour happens each fall in our duck blinds. Here's one example. You and your hunting buddy are having a great day together and suddenly a lone mallard glides in and approaches the decoys.

The sportsman in you says, "You shoot at it. I'll back you up."

That, after all, is the gentlemanly thing to do – and something you do exactly once with a person you don't know all that well in an effort to bolster your own reputation as a true sportsman.

The truth, however, is that you are quietly rooting for the duck the whole time. You are praying that the bird sees the gunner rise or, failing that, notices the flag you are waving behind him. Ideally it will then swerve unpredictably just when your buddy pulls the trigger. Better still you dump the bird in the decoys and cause your buddy to



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

think unsportsmanlike thoughts of his own.

Needless to say, all this is very different if your hunting buddy is a blood relative, the godfather of your children, a long time hunting buddy, your best friend since grade school, your spouse or even the original owner of your kidney. Then it's only natural for you to pray for him or her to miss three times so that you can make a legendary shot on the duck on its way out. Ideally, all this would be captured on film

by a passing videographer too and then used in an Oscar-winning documentary titled *Wingshooting Gods of Our Time*.

Frankly, these thoughts are not something any of us are proud of. Yet they happens more often than we care to admit.

Honestly, this is something many outdoorsy types dream of all the time.

No one group is better than another either, no matter what the fly fishermen try to tell you. A friend of mine said he once watched unbeknownst from the bank as one dry fly angler did a pirouette in the water when his fishing buddy yanked a size 12 elk hair caddis out of the mouth of a 20-inch brown.

Luckily, my friend's vision is not that great and I had my hat pulled down at the time.

Why this stunning display of unsportsmanlike? Well, I suspect it is because we, for some reason, feel that another person's success at taking game or catching fish diminishes our own stature in the outdoors.

Needless to say, this is untrue. If my hunting partner shoots one more duck than I do, he is certainly no better than I am – except perhaps at waving a flag.

Send your letters to jenn@haliburtonpress.com

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The death of Billy Skead

BILLY SKEAD WAS BURIED DURING THE WINTER but the question continues to prick the conscience of his troubled aboriginal community: Why did he die?

Medical reports say Billy died of an overdose of tuberculosis pills, which he stole from his brother-in-law. He swallowed pills once before but people managed to get him to hospital where doctors and nurses saved his life. This time they couldn't.

The system counts Billy as just one of countless Indian suicides. People in his community, however, say Billy did not take his own life. They say it was taken by an uncaring system that has sapped the spirit of native people and left them to drift aimlessly like autumn leaves fallen into a stream.

Billy Skead was an intelligent and interesting young man. Too intelligent and too interesting to be dead.

He was born and raised on the reserve, the middle child in an impoverished family of three boys and six girls. When he was nine years old his mother froze to death in a snow bank on the reserve.

He was one of the Indian kids who persevered and got some education. He went to community college and learned the carpentry trade.

He thought a lot about the plight of his people and became an activist intent on changing the system. He took part in a blockade and occupation to protest the social conditions in which his people lived.

He marched in a native protest in Ottawa and was arrested by the RCMP.

After that he returned to the reserve and worked as an education counsellor, helping reserve children with school problems and trying to persuade them not to drop out. He organized children's sports and tried to help people bridge the gap between reserve life and the foreign culture of city life.

"He was a happy-go-lucky person," his young widow Rose told me when I talked to her. "He liked all kinds of sports. He liked reading and going to the movies."

"He was a quiet, normal Indian boy," Rev. John Fullmer, the Lutheran minister who married Rose and Billy told me in an interview.

"Billy was one of those kids who always had a smile on his face," said Len Hakenson, director of the Addiction Research Foundation.

Louis Cameron, an Indian leader and Billy's uncle and friend, told me that many people wonder why a happy, strong and well-adjusted young man with many friends could kill himself.

"This generation is very sincere and has a lot of deep and urgent messages," he said. "Sometimes to die in an unnatural way is an omen that something is happening."

Louis Cameron said that perhaps Billy was frustrated by all the change that is needed, but realized that he could not achieve it.

"We Indian people are living in an acute state of emergency," he told me.

Billy was not one of the victims of Attawapiskat, the Northern Ontario aboriginal community where five more young people attempted suicide last Friday night. There were 11 attempted suicides the previous weekend in Attawapiskat, and a total of 28 in March.

Politicians and news media are pouring into Attawapiskat, which has declared a state of emergency.

Billy also was not a victim in Davis Inlet, an East Coast community where Innu youth killed themselves by sniffing gasoline.

Nor in Grassy Narrows, Ont., where people didn't have to gulp pills or sniff gasoline to get sick or to die. A nearby pulp and paper mill did that for them by poisoning their nearby fishing waters with mercury.

And not Fort Chipewyan, Alta., which descended into a social Hell after construction of the W.A.C. Bennett dam dried up the Peace-Athabasca Delta, destroying the hunting and fishing lands of the native people.

Billy Skead was not even of this century. He committed suicide in 1976 on the Whitefish Bay Reserve near Kenora. The column you are reading is pretty much the story I wrote for The Canadian Press news agency on April 21, 1976.

That was 40 years ago today.

Some things never change, especially for Canada's native people.

Email: shaman@vianet.ca
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letters to the editor

Thou shalt not steal

To the Editor,

Saints Alive! What "little devil" took our new United Church Crest sign off its post at 1050 Lochlin Road? If you wanted the information on our church service you now have it. So join us Sunday at 10 a.m. for singing, an inspiring mes-

sage, and fellowship after you have "rehung" the sign. Others need this information to attend our services.

Repent and sin no more!

Lois Rigney
Lochlin United Church Member

Help Prevent Forest Fires This Year

Ontario is reminding the public to practice safe fire etiquette when camping or starting a fire outdoors this year.

April through October marks forest fire season in Ontario. On average, more than 1,000 wildfires burn each year across the province, with about half of them caused by people.

Anyone starting outdoor fires must follow strict guidelines under the Forest Fires Prevention Act to ensure their fires are properly managed, including:

- Taking all necessary steps to tend the fire
- Keeping it under control
- Making sure the fire is out before leaving the site.

A person failing to adhere to these standards could be fined and held responsible for the cost of putting out the fire.

Other ways you can help prevent forest fires include:

- Spreading out leaves if raking them into a forested area. Piles of leaves

don't decompose very quickly and if they catch on fire can be quickly carried by the wind.

- Storing all firewood at least 10 metres from all structures, including decks.
- Keeping roofs and rain gutters free of flammable leaves, pine needles, and other debris that can be ignited by wind-blown embers.
- Ensuring firework displays are safe by launching fireworks over an area free of flammable material, such as gravel or a body of water and, when completed, checking the area for any hot residue to ensure it is put out.

"Ontario's Fire Rangers are highly trained professionals, dedicated to protecting people, property and important forest resources. With the start of the 2016 fire season, I'd like to remind everyone to follow ministry and municipal guidelines, and be cautious and properly manage outdoor fires, especially in forested areas," says Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

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PETER BRADY
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Farmers' market heads into summer in strong position

by ANGELICA INGRAM
Times Staff

In less than a decade the Haliburton County Farmers' Market has grown to include three vibrant locations, a long season and close to 40,000 customers, in just 2015 alone.

Those were some of the accomplishments highlighted during the association's annual general meeting held on April 14 in the Great Hall at Fleming College.

Last year was a significant one for the HCFM, as they added a third location in Minden to their offerings, said chairwoman Angel Taylor.

As a result total vendor income was up 66 per cent, for a total of \$433,385, said Taylor, adding the Minden location had a truncated season compared to the Haliburton and Carnarvon markets.

The HCFM started in 2009 with one location and now includes three, with the possibility of a fourth in Highlands East, if conditions are right, said Taylor.

"We have to do more research and conversations will continue," she said, adding it will only happen if it makes sense.

Last year patronage was up at both the Haliburton and Carnarvon markets by 38.7 per cent, with a total of 37,590 customers visiting the sites.

"That is a very respectable growth," said Taylor.

This year the Minden market, which will begin earlier than it did than its inaugural year, will be relocated to the former site of the Pritchard House, which is adjacent to the Minden Hills municipal building.

The new location is a result of the construction of a condo building, which the HCFM board knew about from prior to the start of last season.

Questions arose on amalgamating the Minden market with the Minden Hills Artisans Market, to avoid confusion amongst customers, however Taylor said that is not possible due to provincial rules regarding the ratio of farmers required to be a designated farmers' market.

This year the Artisans Market will be moving into town and the HCFM board has created directional signage to distinguish the two markets.

Another new development this year is the hiring of Melissa Johnston to be the assistant market manager, managing the Minden and Carnarvon markets specifically.

A Trent University student, Johnston will be assisting manager Marla Force and was in the area last summer and could be seen at the Abbey Gardens table at the markets.

"I'm very happy to be coming back to the area," said Johnston at the AGM.

HCFM treasurer Fay Martin reported that the organization is in a comfortable financial situation, accruing about



Melissa Johnston is the new assistant market manager for the Haliburton County Farmers Market, which was announced on April 14 at the annual general meeting for the organization. Johnston, a Trent University student, will be managing the Carnarvon and Minden markets. ANGELICA INGRAM Staff

\$30,500 in revenue in 2015 with \$19,600 in expenses.

Taylor said it was a good idea to have a healthy reserve fund for unforeseen future circumstances, adding the organization has had the Ministry of Transportation on their backs regarding the Carnarvon market location, which is located off Highway 118.

Two board members, Anje Hilkers and Emma Horrigan, stepped down for various reasons and Elaine Repath's term came to an end.

Repath was re-elected onto the board, along with new board members Andrew Graham and Jim Hammond.

All three board members were acclaimed.

The Haliburton market takes place on Tuesdays from noon until 4 p.m., the Carnarvon one on Fridays from noon until 4 p.m. and the Minden market is on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information visit haliburtoncountymarkets.com.

“

I'm very happy to be coming back to the area.

— MELISSA JOHNSTON,
ASSISTANT MARKET MANAGER

”

More free fluoride treatments available to children and teens

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SERMON BY REV. MARYBETH WILSON



There is even more reason to smile, now that an oral health program has been expanded to cover more children and youth in the area.

Children and teenagers up to 17 years of age in Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes are now eligible for free fluoride varnish applications from the health unit.

Fluoride varnish is a protective coating brushed on a child's teeth. The application of fluoride varnish is approved by Health Canada and the Canadian Dental Association, and can help prevent new cavities by making a child's tooth enamel harder.

During Oral Health Month in April, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is highlighting the fact that the fluoride varnish applications are being offered on an appointment basis in its offices in Lindsay and Port Hope.

Local families are encouraged to find out more about the fluoride varnish program by calling the health unit toll-free at 1-888-599-9399 or visiting www.hkpr.on.ca.

"This is a huge plus for local families, as expanding the fluoride varnish program locally will give a boost to the oral health of children and youth in our area while helping to reduce their risk of cavities," says Anna Rusak, an oral health promoter with the HKPR District Health Unit.

The fluoride varnish program is being expanded as part of changes to Healthy Smiles Ontario, the provincial program that helps cover or offset the cost of dental care for Ontario families.

The expansion of the fluoride varnish program also reflects the fact that no communities in the Health Unit area – which includes Northumberland County, Haliburton County and the

City of Kawartha Lakes – currently add fluoride to their municipal drinking water systems, Rusak adds.

Since 2013, the health unit has been offering the fluoride varnish program at local daycares. At the start of the 2015/16 school year, the free fluoride varnish program was expanded to include all junior and senior kindergarten students in the health unit region.

While participation in the program was voluntary, the fluoride varnish applications have proven very popular with local families, according to Rusak. This school year alone, approximately 1,200 JK and SK students in the health unit region have registered to receive the fluoride varnish applications.

"We're certainly pleased to be able to offer all eligible students – right through elementary and high school – the same access to the fluoride varnish program as younger children in daycares and kindergarten," Rusak adds.

Local families are also reminded that the Health Unit offers other preventive dental services, including sealants, scaling and oral health instruction. People can also contact the health unit for help accessing the Healthy Smiles Ontario program to see if they qualify for financial assistance to cover or offset the costs of dental care.

Submitted



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SPARC welcomes new network co-ordinator

by ANGELICA INGRAM

Times Staff

If Greg Thomas could have created a dream job for himself this would have been it.

Thomas, 36, is one of the most recent additions to the community since being hired on as the network co-ordinator for the Supporting Performing Arts in Rural Communities (SPARC) initiative.

A native of England, Thomas has been working in the performing arts field for many years, both in Canada and the U.K.

With years of experience working in rural communities in his home county of England, Thomas is looking forward to bringing his passion for performing arts to the Highlands.

"I've done a lot of work in hip hop theatre, with young people predominantly," he said.

The co-ordinator also established a theatre group in the Jane and Finch neighbourhood of Toronto that he describes as grassroots.

"They would put on street theatre productions revolving around social issues in their community," he said.

Thomas took a lot of his Canadian work experience back to a rural setting in England and applied it to a initiative that involved transportation, tourism and performing arts.

"Arts education is my background, it's what I've done since I was 18," he said.

A few months ago SPARC received news that they were successful in their application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and secured a \$548,000 grant, under the umbrella of The Arts Council-Haliburton Highlands.

The money, which came from the provincial Grow Grants, is helping to further the SPARC initiative, which began in 2009, and has made the hiring of a co-ordinator possible.

With the funding, the SPARC network steering committee is overseeing the initiative and hoping to establish a provincial framework for performing arts in rural communities, said chairwoman Chris Lynd.

"This is really a provincial initiative," she said. "This isn't about the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands, it's not about the performing arts in Haliburton, this is a provincial network that we're building and at the end of three years that network has to involve people from all across the province."

One of the big components to the initiative is an upcoming symposium planned for this October. The symposium will mark the second event of its kind to be held in the county, the first taking place in 2014.

On the job since the middle of March, Thomas has been kept busy already, meeting new people every day and familiarizing himself with the area.

He is working out of the Arts Council office, located in Haliburton Village.

One of his first responsibilities will be to develop SPARC's website and create an online network forum.

"We're trying to get people from all over the province to actually get involved and start a conversation about what are the needs and what is the potential and what works for them living in a rural area as an artist," said Thomas.

The co-ordinator also wants to examine some of the challenges performing artists who live in rural communities face, specifically isolation and barriers, whether that be education, transportation, etc.

Another goal is to try to get individuals and organizations involved with performing arts together, to gather ideas and raise the profile of artists.

"We're also looking to do some regional consultations," he said.

Describing himself as a retired spoken word artist, Thomas prefers calling himself an arts practitioner.

"My art form is getting lots of people together who don't really have a background in art and getting them to create something," he said.

Thomas was an ideal candidate for SPARC not only due to his love of performing arts, but experience with networking, said Lynd.

"Greg said to me the other day, if I could have written my own job this would be it," said Lynd.

The chairwoman is hoping the initiative grows and is sustainable.

"There's people liking what we're doing and knowing that there's this need that has to be filled and if this little group from Haliburton [who] started this can carry forward we're going to give them the opportunity," said Lynd.



Greg Thomas is all smiles as he takes on the position of network co-ordinator for the Supporting Performing Arts in Rural Communities (SPARC) initiative. Thomas, who is a native of the United Kingdom, began the position earlier in March and is looking forward to the opportunity ahead and getting to know the community. ANGELICA INGRAM Staff

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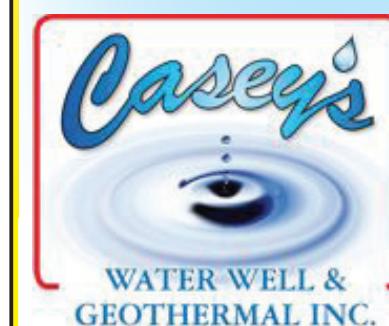
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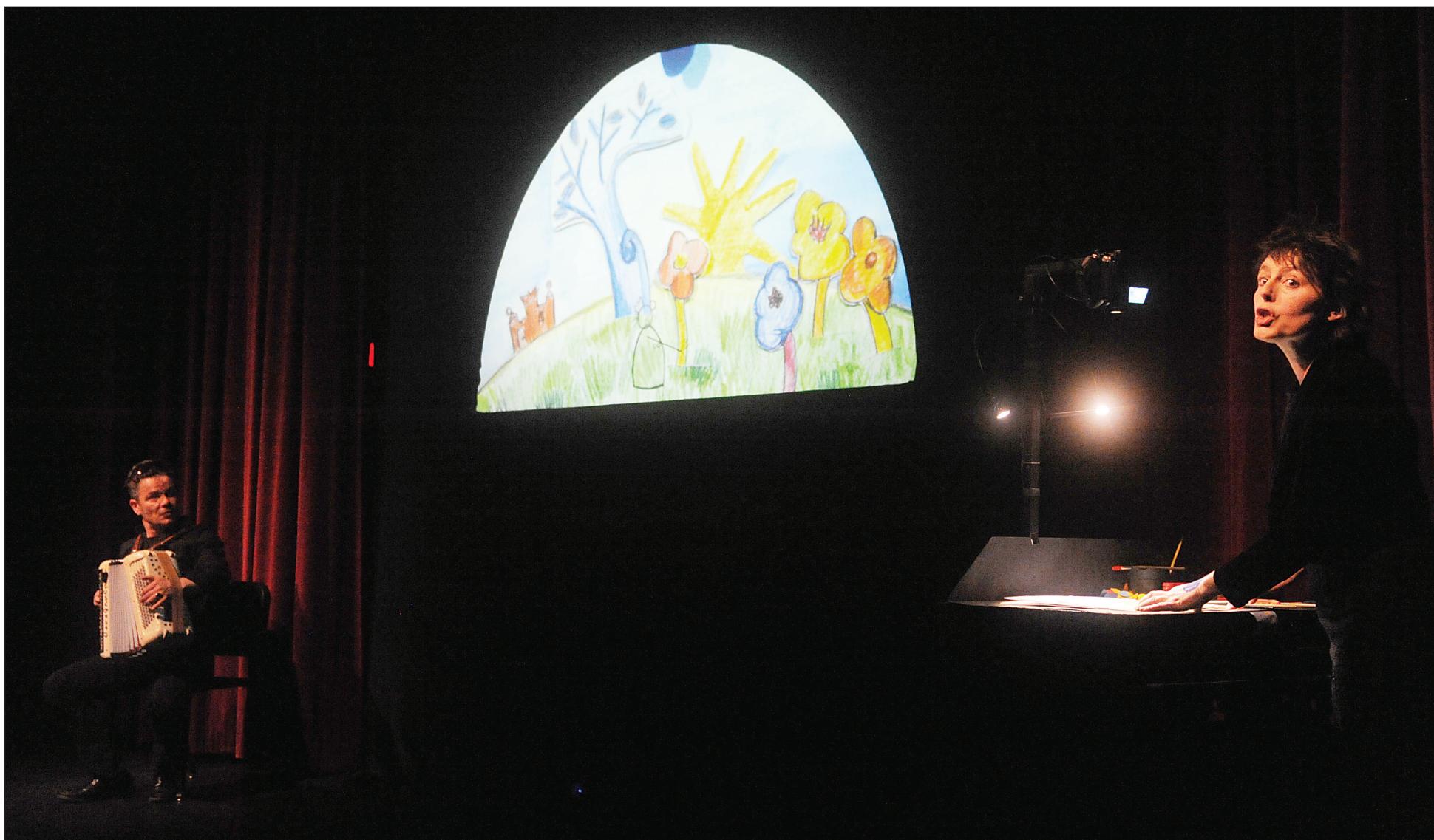
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Time: Meet and Mingle 6:30 p.m.
hors d'oeuvres, cash bar.

Movie 7:30 p.m.

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On-line www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

Production: Sticks and Stones Productions



Light and shadow

The Compagnie des Voisins perform Queen of Colours on Sunday, April 17 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. Part of the Razzamataz series of performances, this production entertained the diverse audience with its magical journey of a "bored little queen" using blended shadow puppetry, live music, painting and video projection. For more information see www.razzamataz.ca. /DARREN LUM Staff

Obey the flashing red lights of a stopped school bus

Members from the Haliburton Highlands detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police would like to remind motorists to be on the lookout for school buses after receiving several complaints about vehicles not stopping for school buses with their red lights flashing.

The public is reminded that every driver while on a highway meeting or approaching from the rear a stopped school bus that has its overhead red signal lights flashing shall stop before reaching the bus and shall not proceed until the bus moves or the overhead red signal

lights have stopped flashing lights.

Remember, you must obey the school bus law on any road, no matter how many lanes or what the speed limit. Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time, not just within school hours. Those who disobey these laws are placing the lives of students in danger and could face fines from \$400 to \$2,000 and get six demerit points for a first offence.

Submitted by OPP

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Happy Adventures Along Life's Road

Wildcats rink resilient at provincials

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Losing a heart breaking quarter final game at the Tim Hortons Timbits Elementary School Provincial Championship did little to shake the focus of the Archie Stouffer Elementary School Wildcats rink of Evan Roitz, Crystal Petry, Grace Hudson and Ben Pilcher, who regrouped from the loss to win two successive games to capture the K event.

The team that curls out of the Minden Curling Club finished 4-1 at the championships held in Gananoque from April 7 to 9 in a field of 54 school teams from across Ontario.

It's only loss came during the A event quarter final against the Lester B. Pearson Public School team. The Wildcats tied Lester B. Pearson in the quarter final 6-6 with its last rock, but in the next and final end couldn't stop their opponents from winning 7-6, using the hammer.

Lester B. Pearson went on to advance to the A final and lost.

Coach and 20-year member of the club Dave McKay was very impressed by the play of the team's skip Roitz, who is calm and knowledgeable about the sport.

This was Roitz's last year of eligibility for the elementary school provincial championship.

The Grade 8 skip also skipped the Bantam boys' team.

Mckay adds, with the team's 3-3 finish in last year's provincials, it showed great improvement.

Mckay said he accompanied the team to the provincials for the team's regular coaches Scotty and Jane Boyd, who were unable to attend the event.



The Archie Stouffer Elementary School Wildcats mixed team, who curl out of the Minden Curling Club, coached by Dave McKay, left, Crystal Petry, Grace Hudson, Ben Pilcher and Evan Roitz finished as K event winners at the Tim Hortons Timbits Elementary School Provincial Championships in Gananoque held from April 7 to 9. With a field of 54 school teams, they finished with a 4-1 record, losing in the A event quarter finals, but won their two subsequent K playoff games. In the lead up, this team was mainly coached by club members Scotty and Jane Boyd, both unable to attend the provincials. Submitted by Amber Mark

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New book an homage to nature

by JENN WATT
Editor

The natural world thrills Gordon Harrison. Its creatures and plants fill him with an excitement not just at their inherent beauty, but at the great scientific wonder they present.

Throughout his life, he has been wandering the woods of the Highlands, capturing photographs of the tiny devil's paintbrush wildflower and the hefty black bear, the white-bellied squirrel and the short-tailed weasel.

The very fact of the world's existence and the incredible power of natural selection and evolution fuels Harrison's curiosity and ultimately motivated him to write his latest book, *My Cousin and Me and Other Animals*.

"I've had a lifetime relationship with the land up there," says Harrison, who lives part time in Peterborough and part time in the Minden area. "And when you write any book, you have to have some fire in the belly. I love the land, I love the animals, I love the memories of the people I knew, all of whom are gone now. That's my motivation."

Harrison lived in the Minden area until about age five, when his family moved to Toronto to find work. Each summer during his childhood he would come back to stay with his cousin and his aunt and uncle, who had a property in the Highlands – the one he now owns.

As an adult, Harrison became a mathematics teacher, instructing in Toronto and Peterborough.

But no matter where he went, he always kept a foot in Haliburton County.

By way of explanation, he quotes naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough: "It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."

As his own homage to science and nature, *My Cousin and Me* takes readers on a journey through Harrison's interactions with nature, illustrated with photographs taken on his property through the years.

He tells touching stories about experiences he's had, peppering his tales with facts about wildlife, marvelling at adaptations provided by natural selection.

One such story is of a mother bear he calls "Mother Courage." Mother Courage was a black bear on his property that he discovered was paraplegic. She had two male cubs and Harrison was able to discern through use of a trail camera that she risked her own life for months on end to protect her cubs and ensure their survival.

"The cubs were always first by several minutes [to the food Harrison put out] until this heroic animal dragged her bleeding backside out of the deep forest only to collapse in exhaustion. On many occasions, she never ate – she just watched her cubs devour the cracked corn and dog food," he writes

in the book.

"Clearly, this mother bear was exhibiting behaviour that can only be described as moral. And just as clearly, this behaviour was preserving her genes by enhancing the chance that her two male cubs would survive and reproduce," he writes.

Harrison says many people have misconceptions about nature, particularly the danger it presents.

"There is no fear walking in the forest. None whatsoever. It's the safest place you can be. It's safer than downtown Peterborough at night," he laughs. "As I say in the book, there have only been two verified cases in all of North American history of wolves killing people. Far more have lost their life from banana peels."

Besides *My Cousin and Me*, Harrison is the author of three other books, which he self-published. He says he didn't get into the writing business to make money. He does it to express love for nature.

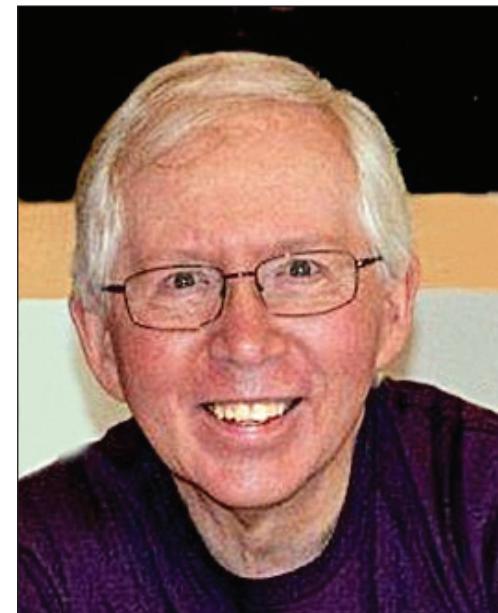
"It's a celebration of the natural world," he says.

You can find Harrison's books on Amazon.com, at Chapters or other fine bookstores, which can order you a copy if they are not in stock. It is also available as an e-book. Minden Mercantile also has a few copies for sale.

You can read a chapter from the book at <https://mycousinandme.net>.



Algonquin wolf (Eastern Canadian wolf) taken near Gordon Harrison's home in the Minden area. Photo submitted by Gordon Harrison



Gordon Harrison is the author of a new book called *My Cousin and Me and Other Animals*. Photo submitted

My Cousin & Me And Other Animals



Gordon Harrison

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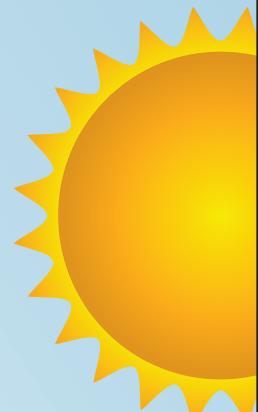
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Red Hawks have smashing success

by JUDI PAUL
Special to the Times

The following are HHSS sports briefs for the week ending April 15.

The Red Hawks junior badminton team had a good day at the Kawartha qualifying tournament on Monday, April 11.

Our team was able to qualify 13 players for the next tournament (see results at bottom) taking place later this week. Special mention to Zach Shantz and Emily Klose for first place in mixed doubles and Natalya Gimon and Arden Harrop for second in ladies' doubles.

Senior squad success in Peterborough

The Red Hawks senior badminton team travelled to Peterborough on Tuesday, April 12, for the Kawartha qualifier, second of two qualifying tournaments. The team faced some stiff competition yet qualified five players for next week's Kawartha tournament. The ladies' doubles team Kenndal Marsden and Jamie Little finished third while men's doubles team of Jayden Wood and Ben Schmidt finished first, matched by teammate Caleb Schmidt in men's singles.

Juniors send three doubles teams to Kawartha

On Thursday, the junior badminton team played at Fenelon Falls Secondary School with some good results against solid competition. The following players are moving on to the Kawartha Championships being hosted by the Hawks next week on Thursday, April 21.

Second place for Zach Shantz and Emily Klose in mixed doubles, fourth place for Sam Longo and Owen Gilbert in men's doubles and fourth place - Natalya Gimon and Arden Harrop in ladies' doubles.



Record attendance at Doc(k) Day

The director of *Blind Spot: Moments Unseen*, Stefan Morel, was present to describe the making of the film and to answer questions. The fifth annual Doc(k) Day Festival held last Saturday at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion proved to be a big hit with Haliburton County film lovers. More than 80 patrons bought passes to the four documentaries and another 129 bought individual tickets. These are record attendance numbers for the event. Photo submitted

Attn: Event Organizers

Get ready for summer! Send in your June, July, August and September events listings to be included in the popular Haliburton County Summer Guide.

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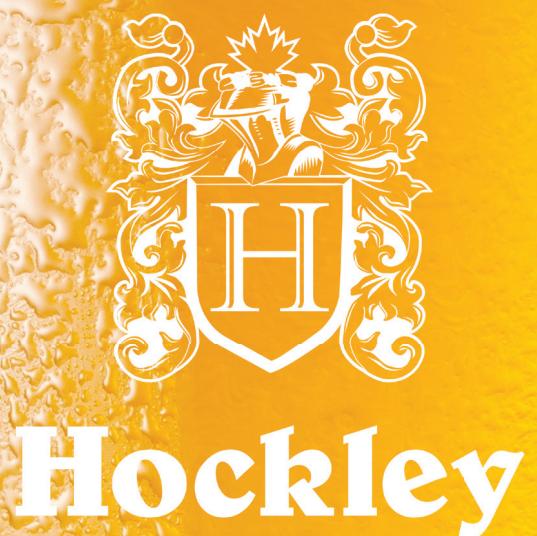
The deadline to get the events in is Friday, April 22.

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Vignettes from life: an Earth Day story

by PETER WALFORD-DAVIS
Special to the Times

"Tell me a story?" she asked, "Please, please," while climbing on to my lap, and snuggling down to listen. "What shall I tell you a story about?" I asked. "Oh, birds!" she replied. "Big birds or little birds?" I enquired. "Oh, really big birds." She said, settling deeper in the old armchair. I started.

All was quiet in the house as I made my way downstairs. Maja, our Golden Lab, opened one eye as I passed by, but made no effort to follow. In the kitchen, the coffee maker mumbled to itself, the aroma floating through the air. Sleepily, I looked out of the kitchen window. The pond glistened in the morning sun: the sky a brilliant blue – another fine day. As I turned away from the window, a movement caught my attention. Was that a pole on the end of our dock? Ridiculous! Looking again, the pole moved, developed one big beak, a long neck, and a pair of silken grey wings. A heron! One of the biggest I had ever seen. Stately, and aloof, waiting patiently for his breakfast to be served.

Wondering how close I could get before he flew away, I slowly made my way down towards the shore. Some distance from my feathered guest. Flippantly I remarked out loud, "How's the fishing?" The heron turned slowly, ruffled his feathers, and fixed me with a stare that seemed to look through me, shook itself, and startling the life out of me replied, "Not bad actually. Two good sized frogs and three fish. Quite adequate for my morning repast."

Gathering my wits, I wiped the coffee off my shirt. "You spoke!" I sputtered in disbelief. "What's so unusual about that?" the heron replied as he speared yet another fish. "After all, you're the one writing the article, not me!"

Gingerly, I sat on a tree stump, and sipped the remains of my morning coffee. "Do you fish here often?" I asked. "Yes," he replied, standing on one leg. "It's one of the better ponds, cleaner with very little garbage to contend with, not like some other bodies of water." He shook his head in disgust. "I don't understand how you humans can be so careless with pop cans, plastic bags, candy wrappers, and all that junk you litter roadsides and ponds with. Of course," he mused, "the seagulls don't seem to mind what they eat – but then they have no taste at all."

"Now wait a minute," I protested, "some of us do try to keep the countryside clean, we don't litter." "Ok, I'll give you that, but I very much doubt that you are in the majority. Sadly, we will all suffer unless it stops. Garbage disintegrates and pollutes the wa-



ter. This poisons the fish and – no breakfast, lunch, or dinner! For me – or you."

We were quiet for a while, I sipped the final mouthful of coffee, and the heron cleaned his slate grey feathers. "By the way, why are you out here so early in the morning?" the heron enquired. "Well, our young lad started back to school this morning, so we have to get up to help him get ready." "Ah, yes," said heron. "I have noticed him, likes to hunt frogs. Always lets them go afterwards. And, he doesn't throw stones at me either – that's another reason for my fishing here. It's a relatively safe place, except for that horse of yours." I scratched my head, "A horse? But I don't have a horse." "Oh yes you do!" the heron retorted. "That tan coloured, four footed monster, who comes tearing around the corner, almost frightening me out of my feathers – her barking is the only thing that gives her away." "Oh, you mean our golden lab." "Whatever," replied the heron. "Quite disturbs my train of thought when I'm fishing – big enough to be a horse." "I'll try to keep her in the house until you have finished your breakfast." "Fair enough," said the heron as he suddenly stabbed at the weeds. "Drat,

missed him," he muttered. Then he turned and fixed me with those piercing eyes. "That pollution business is a very serious problem – one that can be stopped by each one of you humans, big and little, putting your garbage in containers, refrain from breaking bottles, and always leave the green spaces you've visited and admired, as you would wish to find them. The Great Spirit would like that sort of stewardship."

"Great Spirit?" I asked. "Yes," replied the heron. "You call Him God. But we call Him, Great Spirit, for He feeds, and watches over us all, from the smallest sparrow to the largest heron." He walked to the edge of the dock, and peered into the weeds. With the speed of lightning his beak snapped up a helpless frog. "There," he gulped, "now I must be off. It has been pleasant talking with you – but please do something about that pollution problem."

Suddenly, from the top of the hill echoed the exciting barking of Maja, and a tan blur shot past me before I could say a word. Rushing pell-mell into the rope that stretched from the old willow to the dock she crashed head over heels. Startled, the heron soared

into the sky, frantically flapping his wings. "I still say that's a horse!" he called as he winged his way to safety.

Maja hobbled over to my side, proudly wagging her tail, as if to say, "Guess I chased him." I stroked her head, and wondered if the heron would return. Certainly he had a point. We aren't very good stewards of this fair land, if we let any rubbish destroy its beauty and hurt any creatures, be they of fur, feathers, scales, or skin. The Great Spirit gave them to each one of us, for our enjoyment. So let us honour the Great Spirit, and do just that, for we are rich in the beauty of our Canada.

"Grandpa?" a little voice enquired from the depths of the chair, "will, the heron come back again?"

"I hope so," I replied, "I don't know, but, if you and your friends, and me, and my friends, and other people, and their friends, do a better job of keeping our roadsides, ponds and lakes, rivers and woodlands free of garbage, I truly believe he will return."

"Goodie!" she said, "I want to hear another story, Grandpa, please?"



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UPCOMING Community Events

See more events in our Winter Guide, available on newsstands across the Haliburton Highlands. Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com.

Dated Events

HALIBURTON: Food Handler Course

When: Thursday, April 21, 9 am to 5 pm
Where: Health Unit office (191 Highland St., Unit 301) in Haliburton.

This course teaches participants how to handle and prepare food safely. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate (valid for a period of five years) indicating they are registered as a certified food handler. Cost is \$40 per person. For more information and to confirm space availability, call the Health Unit at (705) 457-1391.

The CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (CFUW) is having a speaker this month!

WHO: Kim Emmerson, Author
TOPIC: Alexander Niven, Biography of an Early Haliburton County Surveyor
Kim's latest book, launched in the summer of 2015, is about Alexander Niven, a surveyor originally from England. His writing takes us to the heart of newly settled Upper Canada and the beginnings of Haliburton County in the late 1800's. Kim tells the story of Alexander Niven and his contemporaries who formed and shaped the early settlement into the beautiful area we know today.
WHEN: Thursday April 21, 2016, 7-8pm. Afterward, there will be light refreshments and an opportunity to mingle with the speaker (CFUW business meeting 8:30-9)
WHERE: Fleming College, Great Hall
COST: FREE (donations to the CFUW Haliburton Highlands Scholarship Fund would however, be welcome)

The Loop Troupe presents "Who Murdered Who"

A comedy-mystery one-act play
When: Friday April 22, Doors open at 6:45pm, play starts at 7:30
Admission: \$10 for adults, free for children and students, and free refreshments before and after the show.
Dress rehearsal on Thursday, April 21 at 7pm, audience welcome free of charge.

Abbey Gardens Presents... Full Moon Series, Sound Bath Concert

When: Friday April 22, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm
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Participation by Donation. Suggested Donations is \$10.00 Register today. On-line at www.abbeygardens.ca or call 705-754-4769
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Haliburton County Historical Society, Upcoming Event

When: April 25, 7:00 pm
Where: Wilberforce Curling Club
Topic: Geo-Cashing, What is it? How do you play?
Speakers: Mary Barker and Joanne Vanier
Bring a Flashlight with you

A bilingual concert presented by Fana Soro - a bilingual entertainer from West Africa

When: Tuesday April 26, 2016, 6:30 pm
Where: Northern Lights Pavilion
Cost: by donation, all proceeds to augment French activities for all students
Tickets: available on a first come, first serve basis, so pick up the tickets prior to the event at Cranberry Cottage in Haliburton, Pharmasave (Minden), JDH, Archie Stouffer
Refreshments: Bake sale, with all proceeds going to the High School Quebec trip, the 2 night accommodation and breakfast for the performer.
Fana Soro is a hereditary master musician of the Senoufo people and his performance share the soaring melodies, driving rhythms and spirited dances of ancient West Africa performing arts.
This concert is sponsored by Canadian Parents for French (Haliburton Chapter) and Trillium Lakelands Secondary School

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Team Dorset in Hike for Hospice

DORSET NEWS

Melissa Alfano
705-766-0076
malfano@hotmail.ca

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the 12th annual Evening of Wine, Words, Music and Art at the Dorset Recreation Centre on April 15 a huge success. Thank you to Moon Shadows Estate Winery and Robinson's General Store for providing refreshments, to Mary Rashleigh for doing such a great job MCing, to artists Brenda Turnour, Tara Gilchrist, Anje Hilkens, Lynne Hollingsworth, Elise Muller, Elizabeth Johnson and Caroline Misener and writers Anje Hilkens, Andrea Percy, Irene Davidson Fisher, Elizabeth Johnson and Margot Roberts for sharing their talents with us. Thank you to Zoe Chilco, John Deehan and The Jazz Dogs, Chris Sankey, Brian Paul and Jeff Petrenchik for providing great music. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to set up, take tickets, serve refreshments and clean up. A wonderful evening enjoyed by all!

Team Dorset is in its third year of raising funds and awareness for Hospice Huntsville. Last year they were the top team raising over \$10,000 and they are trying to surpass that goal this year. Team Dorset feels that it is a privilege to be fundraising for Hospice Huntsville and their wonderful end of life programs and services. As we all know, Dorset is a small community and it is important that these services are available for our area. It matters to the people who matter to us! To donate online, visit www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/hospice-huntsville-HikeforHospice/team/dorset/ or for more information or to inquire about joining the team, contact team captain, Vina Parker at 705-766-1810. Thank you for your support!

All are welcome to join the Hike for Hospice Walk at Avery Beach Park in Huntsville on Sunday, May 1. Sign in is at 12 p.m., there will be a Celebration of Life Ceremony at 1 p.m. and the hike runs from 1:15 to 3 p.m. The hike takes place on the Hunter's Bay Trail which is a 3.8 km walking trail suitable for all ages, stroller accessible and dogs on leashes are allowed. Call 705-789-6878 to register. This is a wonderful Fun Family Event and remember to wear something purple! Pledge forms are available online at www.hospicehuntsville.com or pick up at the Hospice Huntsville office located at Algonquin Grace, 100 Frank Miller Drive in Huntsville.

Dorset Pitch In Day takes place on Saturday, May 7, with volunteers meeting at the Dorset Recreation Centre for litter clean up supplies and to pick a designated area at 9 a.m. with coffee, tea, juice, treats and social time for helpers afterwards meeting back at the recreation centre at 11 a.m. This is a great opportunity to help tidy up the village in this popular litter clean up community activity. If you would like to "Pitch-In" or would like more information, call the Recreation Centre. All individuals, groups and businesses are welcome!

You asked for so we're going to give it a shot! There will be a Zumba Class with Joanne MacLeod on Thursday, May 12 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Dorset Recreation Centre and all are welcome! The cost is \$7 for the class. Come out and give it a try! There is a possibility of continuing the class if there is interest. Contact Joanne at jomac6058@gmail.com or 705-766-1546 or the rec centre at recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca or 705-766-9968 for more information or to sign up.

Birthday wishes for April 17 to 23 go out to Todd Brooks, Jordie Schuetze, Grace McEachern and Peri Coombs. If you have items or birthdays for the Dorset News, please send them along to malfano@hotmail.ca or give me a call at 705-766-0076.

Living room bird species off to shaky start

AROUND THE TOWN

Patti Fleury

705-488-2938

brucefleury1@hotmail.com

Here at the old farmhouse this morning's 6 a.m. wakeup call was a most welcome first as the loon flew over en route to Crystal Lake. Apparently loons have several distinctly separate calls when communicating with each other but for me the message was clear simply saying "I'm back." Now when letting yellow lab Taffy out in the morning we are greeted by a chorus of birdsong from the old lilac grove but little else. Somehow the geese must have returned unseen and there is no sign of the usual short-term tenants dropping by to snack on the pony pond. One bird species that roosts in our living room is the Toronto Blue Jays and while off to a shaky start the season is just underway and hope springs eternal. Today is Tuesday and the New York primaries are underway with Trump and Clinton projected winners. In younger days while studying art history New York City, truly the city that never sleeps,

was one of my favourite places to visit. One souvenir is a photo taken at a major intersection of a heavily signed lamppost. At the very top the warning read "Don't Even Think of Parking Here."

Special birthday greetings go out today to reporter Angelica Ingram of the Haliburton Echo/Minden Times. Angelica and her husband Chad have both been very supportive of my efforts to get these columns out each week always willing to assist if needed. This weekly writing experience has made me much more appreciative of the deadline pressures professional journalists are under. As grandson Austin just completes this week his second year of journalism at Toronto's Centennial College we enjoy reading his published articles as copies are forwarded by proud mother Megan.

All you liver and onions fans out there be sure to mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 26th when the monthly L&O lunches return to the Kinmount Legion Branch 441. This menu along with the choice of a delicious hot alternative entree will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a cost of \$8 which includes beverage and dessert. There is a terrific variety of ongoing programs at the

Branch many open to non-members as well. For more information call 705-488-3462 or visit the Legion's Facebook page. One listed in the April *Kinmount Gazette* is intriguing. On Saturday, May 7 the Ladies Auxiliary of the Branch will host a Roast Beef Dinner and Handyman/Woman Auction starting at 6 p.m. Just in time for Spring the cost is \$10/person with a chance to bid on your very own helper for those seasonal tasks.

Members of the Kinmount and Area Artisans Guild have begun sprucing up the curb appeal at the Artisans Marketplace on the lower level of the Kinmount Community Centre in anticipation of the Victoria Day influx of visitors to our town and area. On a broader scope volunteers are needed to assist with "Pitch-In Day" spearheaded by the Kinmount Sparks, Brownies and Guides Troop, coming up on Saturday, April 30. The time commitment is only one hour from 10 to 11 a.m. If you would like to assist please meet at the Railway Station by 10 a.m. to receive your supplies and assignment. In spite of the troubling absence of a gas station Kinmount has much to offer our seasonal visitors so let's all put our best face forward. The incredible hanging flower and

barrel planters will once again be a highlight courtesy of the Kinmount Committee for Planning & Economic Development. As well the famous Highlands Cinemas will open its 2016 season on Friday, April 29.

Speaking of that Committee its major fundraising event will be held on Saturday, April 30 at the fully accessible Galway Hall. Order your tickets now for an evening of fun complete with a delicious dinner and Auctions offering great items to bid on. Tickets are \$25/person and available by calling Diane at 705-488-2635. Again this year there are several special packages including a terrific Via return experience from Toronto to Quebec City. In part funds raised support valued beautification projects which include the beautiful floral highlights along our streets and at our businesses.

With the welcome warmer weather a reminder that the Kinmount Library has many books on plants and gardens. Later on there is the opportunity for the children to do some planting in the outdoor library reading garden. Please note that wi-fi is now available on site.

Until next week keep busy and well. They go together...

County card scores

by Patti Fleury ~ 488-2938 ~ brucefleury1@hotmail.com

April 11 contract bridge at Stanhope: The high scoring quartet members were Pearl Foster 5,610, Ross Fletcher 5,560, our bridge reporter [3 events] Margo Davidson 5,190 and Sandy Lyddiatt 4,500. The Lucky Loonie went to Lynn Childs while Ross Davies and Jackie Metcalf teamed up for a Small Slam.

April 12 contract bridge at Minden United Church: Gareth Kellett reports that Jan Heaven led at 4,410 followed by Bob Penfold 4,390 and Paul Heffer 3,580.

April 12 Mixed Shuffleboard at Stanhope Firehall: After 6 ends Bev Kerr and June Fortune led with 250 then Bev Alexander and Max McKelvey 217. In third spot were Andy Broersma and Dorene Elstone 206 while our reporter Pearl Cowen partnered with Tom Macartney posted the afternoon's low of 122.

April 12 Minden Seniors bid euchre at Minden Legion: Leading ladies were our reporter Betty Wagar 286, Jean Scadden 272 and Clare Obdam 271 while first for the gents at 349 was Marcel Roussel followed by David Lamb 264 and Ida Young 257. Bill McKnight won the major draw with Tom Grix, Joan McKnight and Cathy Thomas claiming the smaller prizes.. Single moonshots struck Pat Roussel, Howard Smith and Loretta Lamb while Ida Young, Al McMullen, Marcel Roussel and Tom Grix each took two.

April 12 euchre at Lochlin Community Centre: From Nancy McPherson comes the news that Ed McDowell held the most lone hands with Donna Darby high lady and Shirley Davis low. For the gents Harold Harvie was high and Gene Newell low with Bruce Shephard winning the special prizes.

April 13 duplicate bridge at Parklane, Haliburton: Playing Howell top marks went to Joan Davies and Margo Davidson 72.5 percent and Muriel McIntosh partnered with Ross Davies 70 percent.

April 14 bid euchre at Minden Community Centre: Leading ladies were our interim reporter Muriel McIntosh 282, Loretta Lamb 272, Pat Roussel 265 and tied for fourth place at 265 Jean Scadden and Marg Oetelaar. First for the gents at 309 was Clare Obdam followed by Albert Foster 293, David Lamb 278 and Jesse Barlow 249. Clare Obdam, David Lamb

and Bruce Metcalf were draw winners while Loretta Lamb, Pat Roussel, Jesse Barlow and Albert Foster took the moonshots.

April 14 euchre at Minden Legion: Most lone hand honours went to Betty Wagar and John Deak with Pat McInnis and James Bastedo posting the high scores. The evening's lows were claimed by Gala Newell and Eileen Gough with Carol Wilson winning the draw and Tom Bagshaw, Kaye Bull and Muriel McIntosh taking home the other prizes. Thanks to Tom Grix for this update.

April 15 duplicate bridge at Echo Hills, Haliburton: In first place at 56 percent were Rod Smyth and Margo Davidson with a tie for second spot at 55 percent between the duos of Gord Cochrane and Peter O'Connor and Tom and Dorothy Howat.

April 15 euchre at Staanworth Court, Minden: Doreen Francis won for high hands, Cathy Howe for lone hands, our reporter Shirley Howe for low hands and Arthur Forbes for the special prize.

April 17 Sunday Bid Euchre at the Minden Community Centre: Bev Johnson reports that top marks went to Pat Norman 334, lady from Bracebridge 284 [will include name next week] and Nancy Gibson 278. Jesse Barlow held the hidden score, Al McMullen won the card draw and Pat Roussel call 1 while Dave Deemert and Tom Grix took the moonshots.

April 18 euchre at St. Paul's Friendship Club, Minden: Most lone hand honours were claimed by Pearl Cowen and Yvonne Arbuthnot with Betty Sharpe and Lil Mann posting the high scores. The afternoon's low went to Don Blakey who also had a chat with the skunk while Kay Naylor claimed the special prize. Thanks to Tim Sharpe for this update.

April 18 Kinmount Seniors bid euchre at Kinmount Legion: Rose Isaacson reports that Frank Franzen led at 300 then Sam Gaudet 253 and Carole Murphy 246. Gala Newell was the draw winner and Frank Franzen took the only moonshot of the afternoon.

April 18 euchre at Staanworth Terrace, Minden: Winning for high hands was Arthur Forbes, for lone hands Bev Johnson, for low hands Peter O'Reilly and for the special prize our reporter Sherin Brown.

Notice



COUNTY OF HALIBURTON LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 53(5)(a) of the Planning Act and Section 3, O.Reg. 197/96, as amended, that the following Applications for Consent have been submitted to the Haliburton County Land Division Committee, the consent granting authority in these matters.

AND FURTHER THAT at its meeting to be held **Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Administration Building, County of Haliburton Office, 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, Ontario, this Application for Consent will be heard by the Land Division Committee:

1. File No. H-031/15
Applicant: Christine HALLIDAY
Location of the Property: Pt. Lot 28, Concession 12, Geographic Township of Stanhope
Nature of the Application: Creation of a New Lot
2. File No. H-008/16
Applicant: Sandra DINGLEDINE
Location of the Property: Lot 11, Concession A, Pt. 19, Plan RD-118,
Geographic Township of Sherborne
Purpose of the Application: Lot Addition
3. File No. H-009/16
Applicant: Sandra DINGLEDINE
Location of the Property: Lot 11, Concession A, Pt. 19, Plan RD-118,
Geographic Township of Sherborne
Purpose of the Application: Right-of-Way

Additional information regarding any of the above-noted applications is available for public inspection at the Land Division Office by appointment during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Land Division Committee before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the undersigned.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills this 21st day of April, 2016.

Lisa Gillan
Secretary-Treasurer
Haliburton County Land Division Committee
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 248
Fax: (705) 286-4829
E-mail: lgillan@county.haliburton.on.ca



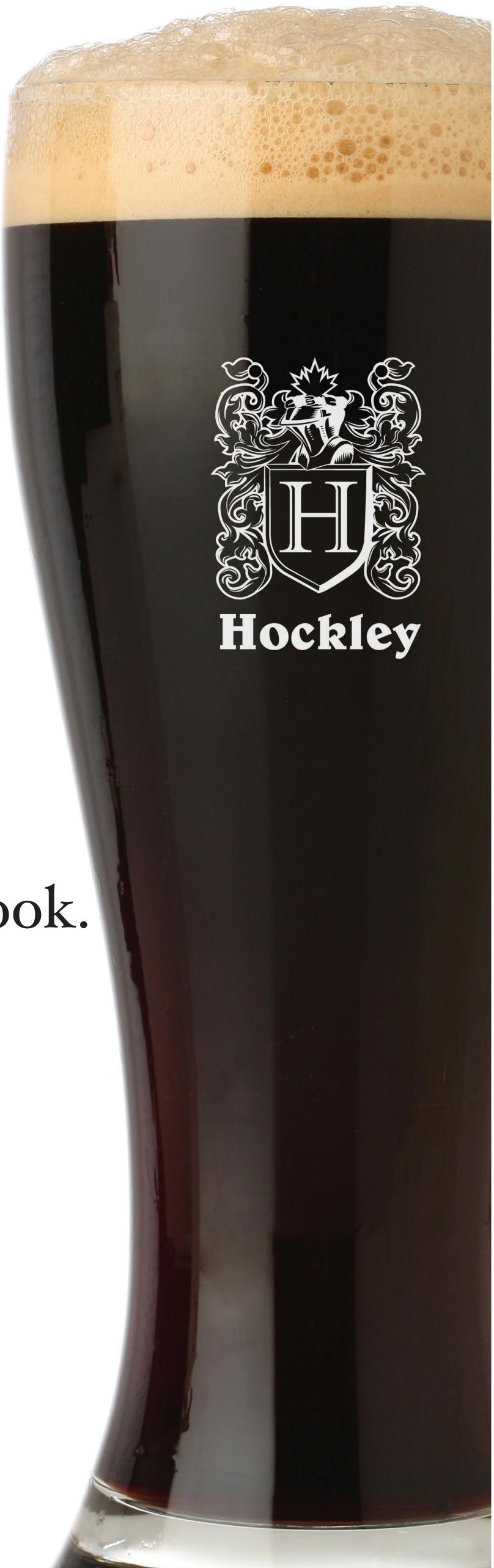
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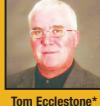
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Kim Butt 286-2138 x 31

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David Lee 286-2138 x 27

Cameron Lake \$199,500

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Karen Nimigon 457-2128 x 29

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Melanie Vigrass 286-2138 x 32

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Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128 x 33

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Greg Stamp 457-2128 x 28

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Mark Dennys 457-0473

Canning Lake Cottage \$379,900

- Part of our premier 5 lake chain, offering 35 miles of boating with great swimming & fishing
- Traditional Cottage 3 bdrms & 1½ baths with a sauna/bunkie right on the water
- Large lot with 349 Feet of Water frontage and good privacy!

Scott Harrison 286-2138 x 28

Bobcaygeon Road Commercial Lot \$45,000

- Offering easy access & high visibility exposure
- Municipal water & Sewer hookup is available
- Zoned as C-4 Village, offering numerous commercial uses along with an accessory dwelling

Denise LeBlanc 286-2138 x 23

39 Acres on Hwy 118 \$54,900

- Mostly forested with some cleared areas
- Hydro and Telephone are on the frontage of this property
- Only minutes from Loon and Miskwabi Lake
- You are sure to see some animals while visiting this property!

Brandon Nimigon 457-2128 x 27

Haliburton Lake \$329,900

- Beautiful setting includes a clean sand beach and classic cottage
- Clean & tidy 3 bedroom cottage with boathouse/Bunkie & storage shed
- Big lake view, great swimming, water edge decks, hot tub & more
- Enjoy the cottage life now!

Elizabeth Thompson 457-2128 x 52

Commercial Opportunity \$29,500 +HST

- Prime 2 acre property
- High traffic area near Haliburton Village
- Commercial Highway zoning
- Private picturesque setting
- Possible VTB

Andrea Wilson 457-2128 x 25

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